Jacqueline Kennedy — Symbol Of Courage

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy last Friday was the First Lady. Today she is the widow of an assassinated President. She is also a new national symbol of courage.

Millions saw Mrs. Kennedy through her ordeal from the moment her husband was shot until his burial with other heroes in Arlington National Cemetery yesterday afternoon. Emotion and grief were etched in her face. Neither disrupted her physical composure. She nobly endured an emotional crisis and a personal loss that has wrung the country.

This young woman of 34, the mother of two young children, one only three years old the day the President was buried, stood up as few persons could. She needed no willing hand to support her, even temporarily. Yet she did not stand alone. Invisibly but knowingly she was buoyed by the prayers a sorrowful nation offered for both her and the President.

Few of us will be privileged to see greater emotional restraint or a nobler sense of public gesture than Jacqueline Kennedy displayed after the sealed casket containing the body of the President was placed in the rotunda of the capitol. With daughter Caroline at her side, she walked slowly but erectly, knelt, kissed the coffin, arose and stepped away. Her courage was greater than her emotion.

Mrs. Kennedy has long enjoyed national popularity, now she has won enduring respect and affection.